(d) if so, whether Government are also likely to issue Ordinance to this effect?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) While non-levy sugar quota for the month of June, 2003 was not allotted to 138 sugar mills (who were governed by the directions of various Courts in this regard), 335 sugar factories were allotted non-levy sugar quota for June, 2003, as per the entitlement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

Special Cell in FCI

1238. DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether to ease the pressure of procuring foodgrains like wheat and rice and maintaining huge stock in their own godowns, the Food Corporation of India is planning to set up a special cell which would advise State Governments and farmers to diversify into other crops like oilseeds;

(b) if so, whether any concrete plan in this regard have been worked out;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the steps FCI is proposing to take to meet the excess stocks and also make available space for further stocks of rice and wheat in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) No, Sir. FCI has no proposal to set up such a special cell. However, the Government is separately examining proposals to facilitate the diversification from wheat and rice to other crops in certain States.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The steps being taken to reduce the level of excess stock include:

(i) Increase in the scale of issue under the PDS to 35 kg per family per month w.e.f. April, 2002.

(ii) Freezing of Central Issue Price (CIP) of foodgrains for BPL and APL families.

(iii) Implementation and expansion of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana Scheme.

(iv) Implementation of the foodgrains based Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY).

(v) Allocation of foodgrains under the Food for Work Programme and the Special Component of the SGRY.

(vi) Promotion of exports of foodgrains.

At present, the total storage capacity available with FCI all over the country is 308.18 lakh tonnes against the total stocks of 197.48 lakh tonnes with a capacity utilization of 64% as on 31.5.2003. As such, there is adequate storage space available with the FCI at present.

Sale of foodgrains to exporters

†1239. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India sold wheat and rice for export in the last years;

(b) if so, the quantum of wheat and rice sold to the Indian exporters in the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 together with the prices at which these were sold; and

(c) the losses suffered by the Corporation on the basis of Economic Cost due to this sale for export in the above years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.